GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2626
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD BY CHINA
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has constructed a road stretching almost 5 km. into Indian territory across the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this matter has been taken up with China; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the reaction of Chinese Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a), (b), (c) & (d) India and China are seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations. The Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas (1993) and the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field, along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas (1996), provide the institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas.

The India-China border has been largely peaceful, but from time to time, on account of differences in the perception of the Line of Actual Control, situations have arisen on the ground that could have been avoided had the agreement on LAC clarification been completed. In accordance with the provisions of the 1993 and 1996 Agreements, the process of LAC clarification has begun.

Government regularly takes up perceived violations of the Line of Actual Control with the Chinese side and underscores the need for both sides to respect the LAC. Such matters are raised through the established mechanisms - the Joint Working Group and the Expert Group, through Border Personnel Meetings and Flag Meetings between the armed forces of the two sides, as well as through diplomatic channels from time to time.

Government remain vigilant and take all necessary and appropriate measures to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India.